

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Entry and consideration of the Amendments and Remarks, and reconsideration of all claims remaining of record as presently amended are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 5, 6, 7 and 9 are amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions to address the minor objections raised by the Examiner. Claim 32 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement of allowable subject matter and for the notification of allowance of claims 1-29. In view of the fact that the Examiner has now indicated that withdrawn claims 19-29 are allowable over the prior art on record, Applicants respectfully request that these previously withdrawn claims be passed to issue along with allowable claims 1-17.

As all objections and rejections raised in the Office Action have been addressed or obviated by the present Amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative, using the telephone number listed below the signature line, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



William G. Niessen
Reg. No. 29,683

WGN/edg
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100